quoted there are correct; we should then ask the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner to investigate the cause of the abnormal infantile mortality in the Municipality and suggest remedial measures.

In regard to the hookworm disease, I do not think that it is special to Vaikam. It is known to be prevalent all over the country, and it is possible that it is more prevalent here than in other parts of the Madras Presidency. The special officer you refer to is not idle. Some of the remarks made by the members to-day would seem to leave the impression that the special officer is idle and has not been doing sufficient work. I may tell the Assembly that he is working and that his work is being watched. He began his work only less than a year ago. He spent about four months in doing investigation work in the town of Trivandrum. He also conducted investigations in the Central Jail and in the General Hospital. He then went to Padmanabhapuram, Arumanai and some other parts of South Travancore. He has completed his work there and submitted his report. He has now gone to Vandi Periyar where he has to carry on investigations in regard to malaria. It will take some time for him to study local conditions, collect statistics, conduct research and make a report if it is to be of any use. We shall have to give him some further time. He has already taught some of the medical officers of the State the more recent methods of examining the hookworm disease. When the result of this officer's investigations is known, *i. e.*, when the Darbar Physician gets enough material on which he can act, I am sure that the latter will make his recommendations and the Government will then consider them and do what is needful.

In regard to the *thodus* around Vaikam which have to be deepened, Government wrote to the Chief Engineer soon after the last session of the Assembly for estimates for the works. These are drainage channels and are required also in the interests of agriculture, as they are intended to carry away the water which stagnates in the fields. The estimates have not been received. I am reminding the Chief Engineer and he says that he will expedite their submission. The question will be considered on receipt of the estimates.

In regard to the *kâdi* flowing from the Vaikam temple, it is a Devaswom matter. The Government will address the Devaswom Commissioner to examine the matter and see what can be done.

101. Needs of the Alwaye Municipality in the matter of a bridge, an English School and a Munsiff's Court.

Mr. K. S. Raman Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Alwaye) stated that there were at present a boys' school with 7 classes and a girls' school with 4 classes departmentally conducted, in the town of Alwaye, and that, though there was no departmental English school in that locality, the public were quite satisfied with the local aided English High School and the local Second Grade College. Those institutions, however, were admitting boys only, and the inhabitants of Alwaye were being put to great difficulty in the matter of giving education in English to their girls. He requested that a complete English Middle School for girls might be started at Alwaye and if the Government were not in favour of starting such a school departmentally, he suggested that permission might be granted to the local Municipality to open a school on condition that Government would grant them a site and a building for locating the school, as also a grant equivalent to one-half of the expenditure for conducting the school. The Member also pointed out that there were two camp sheds in the town, both of which were not necessary, and that the revenue camp shed which was once used as an English Middle School could be spared for locating the proposed girls' school. Another alternative suggested by the Member was that a site might be given them free in which case the Council would put up a building to start the proposed school. He requested early orders in the matter.

The Member then prayed that a bridge might be constructed over the Alwaye river. The town of Alwaye was coming into prominence on account of its proximity to the port of Cochin and the existence of a railway station in the heart of the town. It had also a big market. The Member requested early orders as the people were put to considerable inconvenience for want of a bridge during the rainy season and

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suggested that the railway bridge might be converted into a road bridge as well. The Member in that connection referred to the Dewan's reply given at the last session of the Assembly, and said that, if the bridge could be constructed a little to the west of the *Kadathu kadavu*, the cost would be less.

The Member next stated that, although several representations had been made in regard to the establishment of a Munsiff's court at Alwaye, nothing had been done in the matter so far and that the absence of that court was a source of great inconvenience to the people. As enough had been already said to justify the opening of a Munsiff's court at Alwaye, he would only reiterate the request and pray for early orders.

Dewan's reply.—Your first request is for an English Middle School for girls at Alwaye. The policy of the Government is not to multiply the number of departmental English Middle Schools. You have mentioned as an alternative that Government should give the necessary lands and buildings and that the Municipal Council should establish and work the school as an aided institution. I presume you have the authority of your Municipal Council to say this. It is a proposition which the Government can certainly consider favourably.

You next refer to the revenue camp shed and say that the building may be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Council for the purpose of using it for the school. I personally do not see why there should be separate camp sheds for the Public Works and the Revenue Departments. One camp shed must be sufficient. The revenue camp shed would be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Council if the Municipal Council would start an English School and work it as an aided institution. Government would give the usual maintenance and other grants under the Education Code.

The next thing you have mentioned is a bridge over the Alwaye river. It is true that last year I said that the bridge was estimated to cost between 2 and 3 lakhs of rupees. The correct figure of the estimate is Rs. 2,34,500. That was the amount of the estimate prepared in 1917. If the estimate is revised, the likelihood is that it may exceed Rs. 3 lakhs. You mentioned a site about half a furlong to the west of the Alwaye *Kadattu kadavu* as being a suitable place for the bridge. The Engineering Department, I take it, has explored all possible sites for the bridge and must have prepared the estimate on the basis of the most suitable site available. It is a very costly proposition. We are having some sort of programme now under which we take up one bridge after another for construction. We are doing every year one or two bridges. This bridge, being very costly, must naturally wait for some time. It is impossible to take up the construction of such a costly bridge so soon after the completion of the Chengannur bridge, which has cost the Government between three and four lakhs of rupees. Further, there is the question of the conversion of the railway bridge into a combined road and railway bridge, in regard to which the necessary action is being taken. The South Indian Railway Company is engaged in the investigation and some amount has been sanctioned by this Government and the Cochin Government for it. This Government has agreed to pay one-half of the cost of that work. When the estimate is ready and is sanctioned, the Railway Company will execute the work. This Government will pay a moiety of the cost of the work, and the whole thing will, I believe, be an accomplished fact within a few years.

In regard to a Munsiff's court at Alwaye, last year the High Court said that there was no justification for opening a Munsiff's court at Alwaye. This year we have not received any report from the High Court. I shall address the High Court again and see what they say.

102. Needs of the Parur Municipality in respect of landing facilities, communications, drainage, etc.

Mr. K. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Parur) began by observing that the local needs mentioned in his memorandum were mainly those to which he referred at the eighteenth session of the Assembly, and that, from the replies

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